GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1636
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Mortality Rates of Indians in Gulf
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mortality rate of persons of Indian origin living in the Gulf countries is high compared to the death rate of such persons living as in other countries and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the high mortality rate amongst Indians living in the Gulf region is owing to them being employed in hazardous occupations and subject to hard toil which takes a toll on their health and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry would take up this issue with Gulf countries and ensure that stringent measures are taken against their exploitation by their employers and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The data relating to mortality rates of Indian workers in any Country is not maintained by Indian Missions/Posts in that Country. However, the number of deaths of Indian workers is reported from time to time by the Missions. During 2015 the number of deaths in Gulf Countries was as under:

Name of countries No. of deaths in 2015
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2691
United Arab Emirates 1540
Qatar 279
Oman 520
Bahrain 223
Kuwait 611
Iraq 11
(b) No. On the basis of information available with the Indian Missions/Posts in Gulf Countries no co-relation can be established between cases of demise of Indian migrant workers and employment in hazardous occupations. As reported by the Indian Missions/Posts in Gulf Countries, the death of Indian workers is mostly due to natural causes and traffic accidents.

(c) To safeguard the interest of Indian emigrants, the Government has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) /Agreements on labour with major labour receiving countries, namely, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain and Kuwait to lay down the framework for bilateral cooperation for the protection and welfare of workers. Regular meetings of Joint Working Group under the MoUs provide a useful mechanism for engaging and redressing issues relating to exploitation by foreign employer as also safety, security, wellbeing and welfare of Indian workers.